



**A CONTINUED THREAT TO  
LIVES, DIGNITY AND HOPE  
THE IMPLICATIONS OF UNDERFUNDING  
UNHCR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023**

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Cover photo: Monira Mohamed, a refugee who left Sudan after the civil war that erupted in April 2023, registers with UNHCR in Cairo | © UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

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# INTRODUCTION

In June this year, UNHCR [highlighted the impact](#) on the lives of millions of forcibly displaced and stateless people caused by the underfunding of its budgeted activities. Since then, even more people have been forced to flee, driven by conflict and violence in Sudan, the Sahel and South America, and to make dangerous journeys north towards the Mediterranean Sea and Panama's Darien in search of safety. 250,000 people crossed the [Darien jungle](#) in the first seven months of 2023, while the numbers making the risky sea journey across the [Mediterranean](#) are at a six-year high. In the Bay of Bengal, UNHCR recorded a 360% increase in the numbers of Rohingya attempting dangerous sea crossings in 2022, mainly from Myanmar and Bangladesh. The new conflict in [Sudan](#) is likely to drive 1.8 million people out of the country by the end of the year. UNHCR's budget for 2023, based on the funding required to meet these growing needs, has reached a record \$10.929 billion.

At the end of September, there remains a severe funding gap, which this revised report covers through a continued focus on 13 of the most at-risk operations. The total funds available to UNHCR stood at \$4.798 billion by the end of September, covering only 44% of the needs in 2023. While this reflects the generous contributions of millions of individuals and dozens of government, it leaves significant parts of the budget unfunded. UNHCR urgently needs \$650 million to provide the most basic of assistance and protection in a number of countries.



The system for protecting people who have been forced to flee is under unprecedented strain. There is vast demand for UNHCR's work because of the record number of people uprooted by conflicts, many of whom are now also impacted by disastrous climate events, and the extent of their desperation and poverty. Crises are lasting longer and longer with no sign of resolution at the same time as the humanitarian system delivers short-term fixes.

No one doubts or argues that humanitarian assistance is not vital. Protection for the mother fleeing gender-based violence is life-saving. An education for her daughter is life-saving. Food for her family is life-saving. But the way assistance is delivered needs changes. It goes without saying more financial support is needed, and more flexible funding; and there needs to be a focus on the long term, a recognition that emergencies last longer, and are more complex, and so the assistance provided must adapt with, for example, greater emphasis on support to hosting countries and for localization.

The system itself is under pressure as well because asylum has become a political issue in some quarters, so that many doors are closed to refugees, and the risks to them multiply. This phenomenon of heightened crises fueled by proliferating emergencies should not be normal, but it is becoming exactly that.



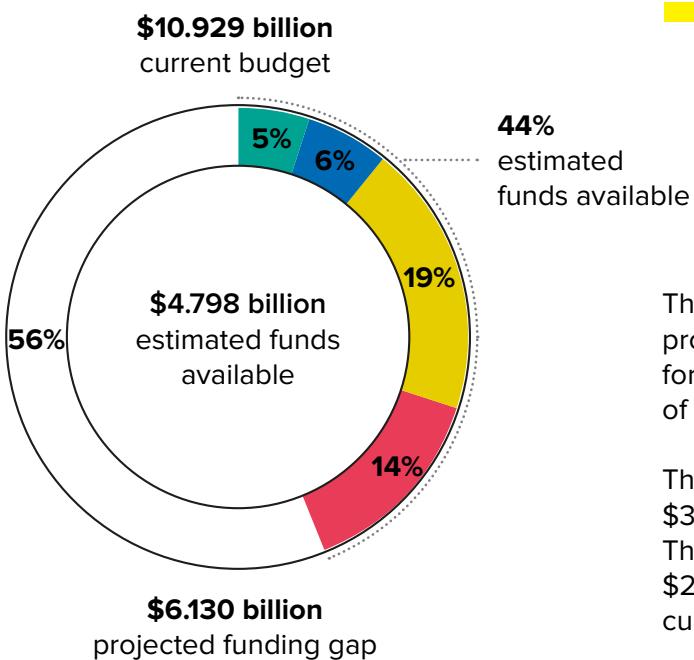
## Funding (in USD) received since issuance of first version of underfunded report

Operation	Needs	Recent contributions			Contributions received since May	Funds available*	% Funded	Funding Gap
		May	September	Contributions received since May				
<b>Operations within Sudan Situation</b>								
1. Egypt	151	27,253,219	48,525,095	21,271,876	49	32%	102	
2. Central African Republic	102	18,534,077	29,598,490	11,064,413	30	29%	72	
3. Sudan	418	84,932,712	127,229,959	42,297,247	127	30%	291	
4. Ethiopia	432	98,551,344	143,016,219	44,464,875	143	33%	289	
5. Chad	308	49,770,103	112,565,696	62,795,593	113	37%	195	
6. South Sudan	279	59,537,428	110,083,250	50,545,822	110	39%	169	
<b>Selected underfunded operations</b>								
7. Yemen	320	78,046,451	99,137,165	21,090,714	99	31%	221	
8. Uganda	343	88,421,230	125,988,434	37,567,204	126	37%	217	
9. Lebanon	560	156,366,764	200,262,894	43,896,130	200	36%	360	
10. Democratic Rep of the Congo	233	66,369,782	92,686,985	26,317,203	93	39%	140	
11. Jordan	390	120,215,635	152,116,149	31,900,514	152	40%	238	
12. Colombia	122	40,164,817	55,276,137	15,111,320	55	45%	67	
13. Bangladesh	275	109,790,486	148,929,306	39,138,820	149	54%	126	

\* includes tentative allocations of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions.

## Global funding overview

AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2023



 Tightly earmarked  
 Softly earmarked  
 Earmarked  
 Unearmarked  
 Funding gap

The 13 operations featured in this report provide protection and assistance to over 40 million forcibly displaced and stateless people, some 36% of the global total.

These operations have financial requirements of \$3.933 billion, or 36% of UNHCR's total budget. The funding gap for the 13 operations is \$2.448 billion, or 40% of the overall funding gap currently facing UNHCR.



The examples that follow demonstrate how underfunding has affected the delivery of humanitarian assistance in any number of ways

**Bangladesh:** in 2022, the prevalence of acute malnutrition in the camps was recorded at 12%. Following cuts by WFP in 2023 of monthly food rations by 33%, UNHCR will not have sufficient funds available to respond to the potential rise in malnutrition rates amongst the refugee population, which could exceed emergency thresholds and put the lives of some 72,000 refugees at risk.

**DRC:** funding levels will necessitate a reduction in the number of protection monitors to document human rights violations. In the Grand Nord of North Kivu, where an average of 100 civilians were killed per month in 2022, there is already a 79% reduction in the number of monitors due to funding.

**Colombia:** UNHCR had to reduce its cash programme in 2023, prioritizing only specific protection cases and reaching only 12% of eligible families.

**Jordan:** UNHCR has maintained basic needs assistance in Azraq and Zaatari camps, but had to reduce from 33,000 to 30,000 the number of households in communities for support. In urban areas, the known number of families at risk of eviction increased by 66% from December 2022 to February 2023. As a direct result of these reductions in assistance, emergency coping strategies such as child labour are rising.

**South Sudan:** rainy season preparedness is vital given the country has been hit by historic rains and flooding in the past four years. Flood protection interventions such as emergency shelter kits, and building and upgrading drainage systems and other infrastructure to withstand flooding are critical to maintaining operations during rainy seasons. As things stand, the operation is unable to meet the huge demand for emergency and transitional shelter for 40,000 households in need.

**Uganda:** without additional resources, by September 2023 the operation will be forced to halt the provision of essential health services and 2,600 health staff. The operation has not been able to provide hygiene kits to women since 2022 due to funding constraints, the lack of which has severely impacted the protection, health and well-being of women and girls.

**Central African Republic and Chad:** in both these operations, scarce resources for existing programmes which were already underfunded prior to the conflict in Sudan have had to be reprioritised to respond to the rapid influx of refugees from Sudan. In Chad, for example, a biometric verification exercise to update registration data and re-assess the protection needs for the existing 407,000 Sudanese refugees had to be put on hold; whilst in Central African Republic, core relief items and livelihoods support planned for urban and rural refugees was redirected for immediate assistance to refugees from Sudan. Resources for repatriation activities in western CAR also had to be redirected.

These, and many other examples, can be found in more detail in the operational summaries of this report.

UNHCR asks a lot of its donors. It is understandably difficult to keep giving more in hard economic times, and to remain engaged as the media spotlight moves on from crises that have run for years or even decades. Also, it takes great empathy to imagine what it is like, not just to be displaced, but to endure additional traumas such as family separation, gender-based violence or climate-related disasters, or growing food insecurity and the malnutrition that inevitably brings. But the needs of people displaced by these crises have not gone away – and are felt to an even greater degree in times of economic turmoil. The greatest burden falls on the affected people, and they are least able to take action to change their circumstances. They would if they could. Hosting refugees is a global public good and, as such, requires true international responsibility-sharing.

It is also true that the responsibility for supporting people covered by UNHCR's mandate falls primarily on the States where they are located, whether they are seeking asylum, displaced within their own country, returning from displacement, or stateless. These States can make all the difference, if they protect and include people who have been forced to flee. Many host governments have already shown extraordinary generosity, but many are struggling with their own economic and social challenges. UNHCR makes great efforts to reinforce their ability to meet their obligations towards displaced and stateless people, by bolstering their physical, technical and legal capacity to include them, and by encouraging development partners to invest in a way that helps them thrive and not just survive.

But when emergencies worsen already precarious or dire situations, UNHCR is faced with hard choices on what to prioritize with the resources at hand. In the Central African Republic and Chad, for example, influxes from Sudan have meant very significant pre-existing populations in need have had their assistance reduced. In the CAR,

resources for core relief items, livelihoods support and repatriation activities had to be re-directed to provide immediate assistance to the refugees from Sudan, and there were similar tough choices made in Chad concerning the pre-existing population of nearly a million forcibly displaced people.

The underfunding of UNHCR's budget puts even more stress on the host community, increasing demands on the host government, and potentially causing friction between the displaced or stateless people and the local population. In Chad, for example, refugees from Sudan are arriving in a region already hosting 407,000 Sudanese refugees for some 20 years. With eastern Chad receiving in four months almost as many Sudanese refugees as it had in the last two decades, there are real risks of host community exhaustion, overwhelming already overstretched public services and exacerbating competition for limited natural resources. The threat to the stability of the whole region is real.

As always, UNHCR makes a tremendous effort to ensure that available funds stretch as far as possible and are used with maximum efficiency and effectiveness. This includes a perennial plea for donors not to link their funding to specific projects or causes, but to give flexibly – unearmarked or softly earmarked funding – so UNHCR can apply it to the most urgent or needy causes or to use it to bridge emergency funding gaps until financial reinforcements arrive. It also includes a careful review of our own staffing and administrative expenditures to reduce these where possible so that more money can be allocated to operational delivery and protection. With that in mind, in 2024, UNHCR is planning to reduce staffing where possible, consolidate field offices, nationalize posts, and rely on partners to undertake certain functions, thus enabling us to safeguard certain activities in operations. However, this year and next, UNHCR is being forced to make especially difficult trade-offs with the challenges in funding, resulting in potential reductions in our ability to deliver.

To reduce costs and increase the efficient use of existing resources, field operations continuously undertake cost-saving measures. These include operations:

- Cutting down expenditure on non-essential supplies and materials, to the extent it is projected that by the end of 2023 operations will have spent 24% less on procurement of assets such as computer equipment and software, generators, or procurement of consultancy services.
- Reducing travel expenses by 8%. This is despite that of the 13 underfunded operations, 6 operations responded to the Sudan emergency, where travel expenses have increased due to the emergency response in hard-to-reach locations. Uganda, Lebanon, Colombia, DRC, Jordan, and Yemen have significantly reduced travel expenses by reducing non-essential travel within the country.

- Reducing fuel consumption by 32% compared to 2022, despite increases in the fuel prices in many countries.
- Decreasing communication costs by 24% by the end of 2023, especially in large operations such as Uganda, South Sudan, Lebanon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Overall, the administrative budget has reduced by 2% (\$7.7 million) in comparison with 2022. While the decrease may not seem significant in budgetary terms, this is due to the fact that many UNHCR operations are in least-developed countries or in developing countries, where the inflation rate has increased significantly.

UNHCR's budget need not ratchet higher every year. Some elements of 2023 spending represent temporary needs that will not lead to a permanent rise in costs, such as the earthquake response in Türkiye. But there are many other areas where short-term investment could reduce long-term needs. Investment in durable solutions is an obvious example, especially if funding can help

forcibly displaced people return to their place of origin or integrate into the local community. However, with a few examples such as Burundi and Côte d'Ivoire, refugee-producing countries often remain too dangerous for people to return to, and many of the drivers of displacement continue unabated. A sustainable peace would be the greatest investment.



**The examples that follow demonstrate how underfunding has affected how and where UNHCR is able to empower forcibly displaced and stateless people, or to provide solutions to their needs.**

**Bangladesh:** funding restrictions mean risks for statelessness, as the registration of a projected 33,000 births per year and of newly arrived and other unregistered refugees will be severely hampered. This will as well affect UNHCR's ability to provide timely updates regarding changes in the population due to marriage, divorce, death and departures.

UNHCR is also determined to improve its own efficiency to maximize the impact of donor funding. It is partnering with other UN entities on shared global services or physical premises, and has invested in cloud-based systems, data and technology to enable it to work more efficiently and effectively in the future. This investment reduces internal costs and also allows UNHCR to implement

**The DRC:** out of 68,000 refugees who indicated an intention to return, only 26,392 refugees (or 39%) were assisted to return to their countries of origin by the end of 2022. In 2023, only 3,286 returned in the first half of the year, due to UNHCR's financial constraints.

**Uganda:** the fuel supply to support UNHCR operations is severely curtailed by funding constraints. This is affecting transportation of newly arrived refugees from transit centres and collection points to settlements, as well as repatriation convoys for refugees opting for voluntary repatriation to Burundi.

programmes that benefit many millions of people, such as cash assistance and refugee registration. But efficiency improvements will not bring immediate changes in UNHCR's funding position. The gap needs to be bridged urgently, and this report aims to provide detailed evidence to show why.



The Tierra Bomba School is an ethno-educational institution with 1,188 students. The student population is diverse, mainly consisting of Afro-Colombians, internally displaced Colombians forced to leave their communities due to the armed conflict, and over 140 refugee and migrant children and adolescents from Venezuela. | © UNHCR/Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo



With the support of UNHCR and national NGO partner, Mukti, dozens of refugee families are growing their own vegetables like bitter gourd, pumpkin and chilies on the few tiny patches of arable land available within the congested camps in Bangladesh | © UNHCR/Fahima Tajrin

## BANGLADESH

Nearly one million stateless Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are hosted in Cox's Bazar, the largest refugee settlement in the world, six years after the latest influx. Among these, more than 52% are children, while women and girls comprise 52% of the total population. To decongest the 33 camps in Cox's Bazar, some 30,000 refugees have been relocated to the island of Bhasan Char by the Government of Bangladesh.

The lack of legal status and livelihood opportunities for refugees, along with restrictions on movement outside the camps, has left them entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance and at heightened risk of exploitation and abuse. UNHCR's activities include registering refugees, providing protection and legal assistance as well as child protection responses, preventing, mitigating and responding to gender-based violence, performing camp management (including emergency response and disaster management), providing adequate shelter, WASH and health care, supporting education and skills development, as well as livelihood opportunities, and distributing life-saving relief items where needed.

UNHCR continues to work with partners to safeguard camps and their inhabitants' high

exposure to natural disasters such as [cyclones](#), flooding and landslides during monsoon season and fire incidents during dry season. However, serious funding shortfalls are directly hindering preparedness and response efforts to climate shocks, the shift to more sustainable and reliable energy sources such as liquefied petroleum gas as a reliable source of energy for cooking, environmental rehabilitation efforts and the prevention of protection risks associated with women and children collecting firewood from far away.

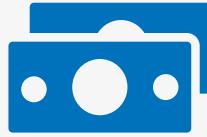
Although the Government of Bangladesh is continuously engaging with the de facto authority in Myanmar on the repatriation of Rohingya refugees, actual return movements have yet to materialize. UNHCR has continued to engage in advocacy on advancing solutions for the Rohingya. Until their voluntary return in safety and dignity is possible, Bangladesh and the Rohingya refugees will require sustained and adequate financial support to ensure they can live safely and decently, and that they are prepared for a successful return when the situation is conducive. Essential sectors such as protection, health, shelter, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) need funding to ensure bare minimum basic needs are covered.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

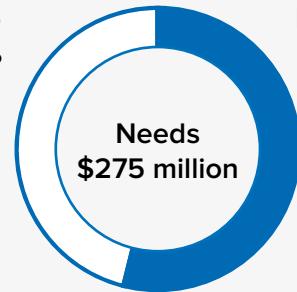
Overall: **952,414**

Largest population group: Rohingya - **952,370 / 99.9%**



### FUNDING

Gap 46%      Funded 54%



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Child protection:** More than a 30% decrease in the number of child protection case workers supporting vulnerable children in need (consequential drop from 15,000 in 2022 to 10,000 children in 2023).



**Health:** Scaling down the number of health services to seven facilities as well as community health workers in the camps affecting the accessibility, timeliness and quality of service delivery of community, primary and secondary health care, nutrition, psychosocial and mental health support for 100,000 refugees. This is particularly concerning given the two food ration cuts of 33% in a year.



**WASH:** The construction of new latrines has been cut by more than one third, and the number of bathing facilities by more than half, leaving 140,000 refugees unable to meet their basic WASH needs. Moreover, the number of soap bars distributed to some 380,000 refugees has also been reduced by one third.



**Shelter and site management:** Although funding received for the Cyclone Mocha response enabled UNHCR to repair over 4,600 refugee shelters, repairs and maintenance will have to be scaled down 30% during the upcoming cyclone season (October – November). A reduction in the repair and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including a 40% decrease on the number of planned roads and 20% reduction on drainage systems, will result in refugees being forced to live in unsafe environments. In addition, Safety Unit Volunteers – the first line of defence against recurring seasonal hazards – have been cut 30%, impacting the timely response to natural disasters.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Access to territory, registration and documentation - \$2.9 million:** the registration of a projected 33,000 births per year and of newly arrived and other unregistered refugees, as well as timely updates regarding changes in the population due to marriage, divorce, death and departures, will be severely hampered.

In addition, the issuance of family and individual (identity) documents – including those lost, damaged or destroyed by fires and other hazards – and documents for children turning twelve years old, will also be affected, thereby delaying the delivery of critical services. The verification of some 39,000 people from the 1992 influx caseload last conducted in 2014 will be impacted, hampering the resettlement programme approved in 2023 for this population.



**Health - \$16.5 million:** a reduction in the number of community health workers will particularly impact pregnant women, children and infants. Promotion campaigns will be affected and could see an increase in home deliveries in camps and a 30% decrease in child vaccination rates. All this is likely to exacerbate the risk of maternal, neonatal and infant deaths. Due to delays in detecting outbreak-prone diseases coupled with reduced health care services, the disease burden due to uncontrolled spread will put some 100,000 refugees in the camps at increased risk.

In 2022, the prevalence of acute malnutrition in the camps was recorded at 12%. At the present rate and following recent cuts of the monthly food rations by 33%, UNHCR will not have sufficient funds available to respond to the potential rise in malnutrition rates amongst the refugee population. This could exceed the emergency threshold, putting the lives of some 72,000 refugees at risk.



**Shelter and site management - \$15.3 million:** due to the temporary nature of shelter materials (bamboo), the annual maintenance cost for shelters and facilities is high and government approvals for new initiatives on the use of weather and fire resilient materials is still pending. The provision of life-saving emergency shelter support for some 350,000 extremely vulnerable refugees who continue to live in shelters constructed with non-durable materials will be hampered as a result, thereby limiting their preparedness to and heightening their risk of being affected by natural disasters.



**Child protection - \$2.4 million:** some camps will be left without adequate case management, mental health and psychosocial support, and community-based protection measures. As a result, 4,427 vulnerable refugee children will face increased protection risks, which have been exacerbated by two recent food ration cuts.



**WASH - \$5.5 million:** 100% of refugees will not receive essential WASH hygiene items such as dignity kits and soap as per the recommended standards. The operation and maintenance of almost 30% of the camps' water supply networks and sanitation facilities will also be impacted. Deteriorating hygiene conditions will increase health risks and put some 380,000 refugees at risk of acute watery diarrhoea and skin diseases such as scabies.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$154.64 million, if not more.**



With the support of UNHCR and national NGO partner, Mukti, dozens of refugee families are growing their own vegetables like bitter gourd, pumpkin and chilies on the few tiny patches of arable land available within the congested camps in Bangladesh | © UNHCR/Fahima Tajrin



Bello Oriente is a neighborhood located on the mountain slopes on the urban outskirts of Medellín, Colombia, and it is home to refugees, migrants, internally displaced people, victims of armed conflict, and host communities. | © UNHCR/Catalina Betancur Sánchez

## COLOMBIA

Although Colombia's President is determined to set a path to peace after 60 years of armed conflict and to normalize relations with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the country is struggling to overcome multiple forced displacement crises. On the one hand, it is working to include millions of Venezuelans who are fleeing and unable to return to their country, having delivered 1.7 million temporary protection permits by August 2023. On the other, conflict and armed violence continue to uproot Colombians; over 900,000 people have been displaced since the 2016 Peace Agreement. Forced displacement and confinement persist in areas controlled or disputed by irregular armed groups, affecting indigenous, rural and Afro-Colombian communities especially. Targeted killings of human rights defenders, massacres, recruitment of children by illegal actors, gender-based violence, and the use of mines and unexploded ordnance continue to challenge the authorities. The Government's Victims' Unit registered over 247,000 victims of forced displacement in 2022, the highest number since the 2016 Peace Agreement. In 2023, over 6.8 million IDPs still required assistance and reparation.

Colombia has a strong legal and protection framework, but challenges remain in its implementation, including lengthy processes and limited measures for the reintegration of Colombian returnees. The refugee status determination process is complex, with cases often taking years, and asylum-seekers face difficulties accessing work and basic rights. Despite significant progress, some Venezuelans with temporary protection still encounter problems finding employment and accessing financial, educational, and health services, and many experience discrimination and xenophobia.

Sustaining UNHCR's presence in field locations is crucial in 2023 to bolster coordinated efforts to monitor and quickly respond to displacement and confinement. UNHCR works with the Government to improve the response to internal displacement and will continue its efforts to ensure access to asylum, documentation, civil registries, essential services, and inclusion in national social protection systems. However, more funding is urgently needed if UNHCR is to empower communities to identify and pre-empt risks and take action with the authorities to help IDPs and host communities in the search for long-term solutions for the displaced population.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **9,835,191**

Largest population group: IDPs - **6,834,492 / 69%**



### FUNDING

Gap 55%      Funded 45%

Needs  
\$122 million

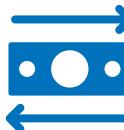
## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Protection:** limited projects that mitigate the impact of the internal conflict (only a third of the planned community ombudspersons could be hired).



**Gender-based violence and child protection:** reduced casework capacity to manage situations of gender-based violence and child protection (only 30% of the case workers could be hired).



**Cash assistance:** significantly reduced the number of families assisted with monthly cash payments.



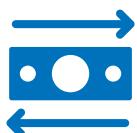
**Shelter:** reduced the number of informal settlements where IDPs live that are selected for legalization processes (only 20% of identified legalization processes can be supported).

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Protection - \$20 million:** UNHCR was obliged to substantially curtail activities related to strengthening the ombudsperson function in Colombia.

UNHCR also limited its projects that mitigate the impact of the internal conflict, particularly prevention of recruitment by armed actors.



**Cash assistance - \$17 million:** UNHCR had to reduce its cash programme in 2023, and only prioritize specific protection cases, reaching only 12% of eligible families.



**Solutions - \$10 million:** UNHCR is severely limited in providing solutions for IDPs such as legalization of informal settlements, or return and relocation processes (currently 6.8 million IDPs are eligible for assistance and reparation).

Only 20% of legalization processes and 25% of return and relocation processes are being supported.

### GROWING CONCERN/AREAS TO MONITOR

Maintaining a favourable protection environment in conflict-affected areas, and particularly prevention and response to IDPs.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$70.53 million, if not more.**



UNHCR improves conditions for IDPs by distributing emergency core relief items in the Democratic Republic of the Congo | © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The forced displacement crisis in the DRC is colossal, complex and escalating in scope and impact. The country has the largest internally displaced population in Africa, at 6.3 million in 2023. More than 520,000 refugees, mainly from Central African Republic, Rwanda and Burundi, have sought asylum in the DRC, while over 1 million Congolese are refugees elsewhere in Africa. After decades of war, the country faces a plethora of socioeconomic problems, and violent clashes continue to force people to flee, including 2.4 million in North Kivu province alone since March 2022. An estimated 72% of the Congolese population live on less than \$1.90 a day and an estimated 27.3 million are food insecure, with high rates of infant mortality, maternal mortality and malnutrition. There is a lack of basic education and health services, and weak security, justice, and social services.

The cyclic and protracted nature of the various crises in the DRC heavily impact UNHCR's operations, which need to reach some of the most

remote, poverty-stricken, and underserved areas of the DRC to ensure adequate protection and assistance. In many of these areas, UNHCR stands alone as a provider of last resort.

UNHCR aims to ensure IDPs have the basics to live in safety and dignity, and that humanitarians, development actors and peacemakers work together to ensure IDPs' rights are respected and protected, and that wherever possible a durable solution to their displacement is achievable. However, the DRC operation remains heavily underfinanced. More positively, the Government has, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, complemented UNHCR and stakeholder efforts by providing land and other resources to support the response to displacement. Host communities have also been hospitable, enabling UNHCR to implement its "alternative-to-camps" policy and to work with the Government on involving refugees and IDPs in community programming and public services.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

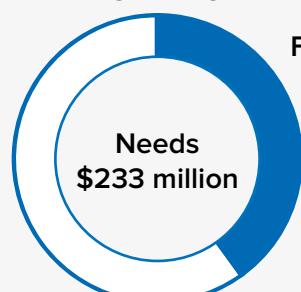
Overall: **7,290,878**

Largest population group: IDPs - **5,541,021 / 76%**



### FUNDING

Gap 60%      Funded 40%



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Education:** due to funding constraints, UNHCR's capacity to support refugee education at primary level remains well below the national average (42% against 68%). Secondary level education is also well below the national average at 15.8 percent compared to a national average of 43%.



**Health:** health services have been reduced with 58% of the needs for Central African Republic refugees not being covered in 2023. Healthcare support for Rwandan and Burundian refugees has had to be limited to children, women of child-bearing age and the chronically ill, with men of all ages being altogether left out of the healthcare system.



**Livelihoods:** Self-reliance and empowerment are at the core of the DRC's strategy for all 522,000 refugees and yet, by the end of 2022, only 4% (20,000) had received livelihoods support.



**Solutions:** out of 68,000 refugees in the DRC who indicated an intention to return to their countries of origin, only 26,392 refugees (or 39%) were assisted to return to their countries of origin by the end of 2022. In 2023, only 3,286 returned in the first half of the year, due to UNHCR's financial constraints.

Of the 22,000 Congolese refugees residing in other countries, such as Zambia and Angola, 11,712 out of a planned 22,000 Congolese could be supported to return to the DRC by the end of 2022. In 2023 only 553 refugees have been supported to return to date.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Protection - \$3.5 million:** Funding levels will necessitate a reduction in the number of protection monitors to document human rights violations, including killings, kidnappings, and sexual assaults. In the Grand Nord of North Kivu, where an average of 100 civilians were killed per month in 2022, there is already a 79% reduction in the number of monitors due to funding.



**Shelter for IDPs - \$1.5 million:** adequate and secure shelter is an important protection tool but less than 10% of shelter needs for IDPs will be met by UNHCR in 2023.



**WASH - \$1.2 million:** water, sanitation and hygiene is critical for the refugee response, but at the current funding rate UNHCR will only meet 27% of the latrine needs for Central African refugees. Refugees are also faced with the challenge of fending off epidemics such as cholera which stem from a lack of clean water and adequate sanitation and hygiene systems.

### GROWING CONCERN/AREAS TO MONITOR

Concerning protection and shelter for IDPs, UNHCR and humanitarian partners are deeply alarmed by the increase in gender-based violence in overcrowded displacement sites in eastern DRC. Of great concern is the trend by IDPs of increased engagement in negative coping mechanisms

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$114.84 million, if not more.**



UNHCR improves conditions for IDPs by distributing emergency core relief items in the Democratic Republic of the Congo | © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila



Abdul Rahman Alhomsi, an 18 year-old Syrian refugee from Daraa, fled to Jordan in 2013. Abdul Rahman continued his secondary education in Zaatari Camp and achieved an excellent GPA of 96.3%. © UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

## JORDAN

Jordan hosts the second-highest share of refugees per capita worldwide – some 730,000 registered with UNHCR, predominantly Syrians but also large groups from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia. More than 83% of refugees live in Jordanian communities rather than camps.

The Government has made remarkable efforts to ensure refugee inclusion in national systems, including health care, education and – for Syrian refugees – the labour market.

A series of economic shocks have impacted refugee households in the past years: COVID-19, increases in commodity prices following the war in Ukraine, and increases in utility costs following national reforms and inflation. As a result, refugee vulnerabilities are on the rise, and an increasing number are now in a situation where they could not stand any additional economic shocks.

Two thirds of refugees report their financial situation has worsened in the past 12 months and growing poverty has prompted a majority to resort to harmful coping strategies such as sending children to beg on the street. Refugee children are increasingly at risk of child abuse, violence, neglect, child marriage, child labour and school drop-out, while refugee women and girls also face a heightened risk of gender-based violence.

Refugees take out increasingly high debts, with recent UNHCR assessments suggesting debts can be as high as 1,250 JOD (around \$1,765). The excessive use of negative coping strategies underscores the deteriorating conditions of refugee households. The growing threat of evictions from privately rented accommodation is concerning, as it is an indication other means have been exhausted.

In 2023, the refugee response in Jordan has reached a funding crisis with serious consequences for the lives of refugee women, men and children. UNHCR partners have either withdrawn support in critical areas such as health, or reduced cash assistance. A crucial WFP food security programme was reduced significantly in the second half of 2023 with the number of refugees receiving monthly food assistance reduced, and the value of assistance lowered. For the first time, even refugees in camps could not be spared. Experience shows this erodes a critical safety net for refugee families as many vulnerable refugees resort to harmful coping strategies. Winter with the additional needs and costs for heating, medicines and shelter will make the socio-economic situation of the most vulnerable even worse.

After more than 12 years of the Syria crisis, there is an imminent risk that the situation slides back into a humanitarian crisis if humanitarian support is not sustained.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **748,799**

Largest population group: Refugees - **697,767 / 93%**



### FUNDING

Gap 61%      Funded 39%

Needs  
\$390 million

## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Well-being and basic needs:** UNHCR has maintained basic needs assistance to all refugees in Azraq and Zaatari camps, but had to reduce the number of households in communities for support from 33,000 to 30,000. The known number of families at risk of eviction increased by 66% from December 2022 to February 2023. As a direct result of these reductions, emergency coping strategies such as child labour are rising and being tracked by UNHCR's Vulnerability Assessment Framework.



**Health:** UNHCR has already reduced the number of supported health clinics in Amman from five to two while capacity issues in the health system remain.



**Shelter:** UNHCR is reducing shelter maintenance on account of reduced budget. For example, while in 2022 UNHCR was able to repair 1,920 shelters, in 2023 UNHCR has resources to repair only 1,150 shelters while the need for shelter repair in camps is several times higher.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Child protection – \$6.5 million:** insufficient funding leads to an increase in the number of child protection incidents, as families resort to negative coping strategies to make ends meet (children out of school, child labour, early marriages etc.). At the same time, funding constraints will mean fewer child protection services available.



**Community-based protection – \$12.5 million:** UNHCR and partners could be unable to strengthen community-led structures and thus enhance protection and solutions through refugee empowerment with some 101,100 people at risk.



**Safety and access to justice – \$5.4 million:** the funding crisis risks compromising UNHCR's efforts to advocate freedom of movement and the principle of non-refoulement. In its planning activities UNHCR might be compelled to reprioritise interventions and reduce critical interventions preserving the asylum space and access to justice with up to 71,000 people at risk.

## GROWING CONCERN/AREAS TO MONITOR

Another growing concern is maintaining the favourable protection space. While Jordan has been very hospitable towards refugees and asylum-seekers, the Government needs support in the refugee response, which will help ensure a continuous access to protection and services as the displacement situation becomes increasingly protracted.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$240.46 million, if not more.**



A young girl stands in the snow outside her tent in Lebanon's Beqaa Valley | © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

## LEBANON

Lebanon, with the highest number of refugees per capita worldwide, is facing its worst socioeconomic crisis in decades, and reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut blast in 2020. Half of the Lebanese population is estimated to be below the poverty line, and 90% of the government-estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees in the country, most of them children, need humanitarian assistance to survive.

There are gaps in critical supply chains and limitations on access to food, healthcare, education and other basic services. Faced with hyperinflation, subsidy removals and socioeconomic deterioration, refugees are taking on increasing levels of debt to meet their basic needs, while spiraling costs force refugee families to make difficult choices to survive every single day, including skipping meals, not seeking urgent medical treatment, and sending children to work instead of school. The strain on refugees' mental health has generated an increasing number of suicide-related calls and reports of attempts at self-harm. Refugees are increasingly turning to irregular onward movements, including dangerous boat journeys across the Mediterranean.

Shelter conditions are substandard, with overcrowding, lack of privacy, safety, and access

to basic needs including water, sanitation, electricity, and heating. Public services have declined significantly with many at risk of collapse. Municipalities are also affected and are under increasing pressure but unable to provide basic services due to a lack of funding. Competition between Lebanese and refugee communities over resources is likely to increase, which risks escalating tensions and fueling anti-refugee rhetoric.

UNHCR works closely with the Government in providing protection and assistance to refugees, host communities and stateless persons. UNHCR's strategy focuses on preserving the protection space, ensuring dignified stay, enhancing social cohesion and enabling protection-driven solutions, including improving access to resettlement and/or complementary pathways to third countries and upholding the right to voluntary return in safety and dignity.

Funding gaps encompass all areas of intervention for UNHCR in Lebanon, with dire consequences for the most vulnerable refugee families. If the funding situation does not improve soon, UNHCR is concerned that it will not be able to sufficiently support refugees in accessing their rights and meeting their most basic needs in Lebanon.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **817,126**

Largest population group: Syrian Refugees - **805,326** / **98%**

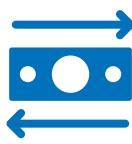


### FUNDING

Gap 64%      Funded 36%

Needs  
\$560 million

## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Cash assistance:** the number of families assisted with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) had to be reduced by 11% to 127,800 families from 2022 to 2023.

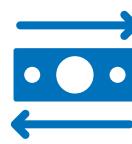


**Health:** underfunding has limited the coverage for payment of refugee patients eligible to receive life- and limb-saving services, including a reduction of obstetric care cost coverage from 75% to 50%.



**Shelter:** UNHCR Lebanon had to decrease work on improvements in informal settlements by 7.5%. As a result, more refugees will be threatened by risks and other hazards related to winter and floods and their physical safety, protection and health will be compromised.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Cash assistance - \$242.8 million:** some 16,200 families discontinued from MPCA will be at risk of being left without any other source of income for survival and forced to rely on debt or resort to even more harmful coping mechanisms.



**Health - \$60.7 million:** underfunding will increase the burden on refugee families in a rapidly deteriorating socioeconomic environment where 41% of refugees already cannot afford any access to healthcare, as per the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon and Health Access and Utilization Survey (HAUS) results.



**Shelter \$23.1 million:** in urban areas, UNHCR risks having to reduce the rehabilitation and repair of substandard buildings, while an increasing number of refugees are living in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods and substandard and overcrowded shelters, risking further deterioration of peaceful coexistence in these areas.

### GROWING CONCERN/AREAS TO MONITOR

Harmful anti-refugee rhetoric may lead to further social tensions and instability, impacting the protection space. Efforts should focus on ensuring appropriate assistance and services to the most vulnerable.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$301.15 million, if not more.**



UNHCR works on making WASH services accessible to refugees and host community members in Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda | © UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

## UGANDA

Uganda is Africa's largest refugee-hosting country, with arrivals continuing in 2023. Most refugees have fled violence in South Sudan or the DRC, and more than 90% are highly economically vulnerable. Although Uganda is a global leader in its approach to peaceful coexistence and refugees have the right to work and to access basic services, more than nine out of every 10 refugees live in the most underdeveloped areas among a local population that already faces great economic and environmental challenges, with pressure on public health, sanitation and education. The refugee population includes over 860,000 children, including over 71,000 who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, 112,000 persons with a disability, and 122,000 women at risk. There are growing concerns around gender-based violence, child marriage, child pregnancy and suicide rates, and the gross enrolment rate for refugee children of secondary school age is only 10%.

Inflation has kept prices high and 90% of refugees need food or cash assistance, although underfunding is eroding the available resources. Anaemia levels have risen alongside a sudden

reduction in general food assistance. Provision of hygiene kits and soap rations has also been reduced.

The Government of Uganda, a co-convenor of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, is prioritizing increasing the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, taking action against climate change, sharing responsibility rather than shifting duty, localizing the refugee response by strengthening the role of national responders, and building lasting achievable and impactful solutions for refugees.

Underfunding threatens to undermine or reverse modest gains already made in nutrition, health and financial inclusion, and leaves minimal resources to respond to acute and growing protection needs. Humanitarian partners will remain overstretched, unable to create economic opportunities for refugees to graduate out of poverty or even ensure delivery of life-saving assistance. More funding will help to meet household basic needs, improve refugees' self-reliance and livelihoods, and support activities to mitigate the refugee population's environmental impact.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

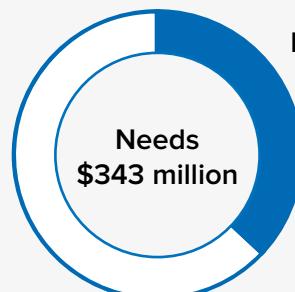
Overall: **1,648,353**

Largest population group: Refugees - **1,463,523 / 89%**



### FUNDING

Gap 63%      Funded 37%



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

 **Health:** due to limited funding, Uganda can only provide health and education services to refugees until September 2023. Without additional resources the operation will be forced to halt the provision of essential education and health services and 2,600 health staff, currently supported by UNHCR.

Available stocks of essential drugs can only meet the needs of refugees until September 2023, and the operation is unable to initiate procurement for the fourth quarter of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. This funding gap poses a significant challenge in ensuring the continued supply of essential drugs impacting the provision of critical healthcare services.

The operation has not been able to provide hygiene kits to women since 2022, due to funding constraints. This has impacted the protection, health and well-being of women and girls.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

 **Education – \$2.5 million:** \$1.5 million will maintain 3,700 teachers and allow around 270,100 learners to complete their school year (with a pupil to teacher ratio of 1:73). \$1 million will allow for the procurement of scholastic supplies for 384,276 children in primary education.

 **Logistics and operational capacity - \$3.7 million:** \$2 million will provide fuel to partners in the fourth quarter of 2023. \$1 million will support vehicle maintenance, vital to the provision of relief supplies and for transportation. \$700,000 will provide for the transport of refugees, including new arrivals, returnees and voluntary repatriation.



**Education:** the operation cannot provide sufficient scholastic material for 384,276 children enrolled in primary education and will be forced to discontinue salaries for 3,700 teachers.



**Transport and logistics:** the supply of fuel to support UNHCR operations will be severely curtailed by funding constraints, which will affect humanitarian operations including transportation of newly arrived refugees from transit centres and collection points to settlements, as well as the organization of repatriation convoys for refugees opting for voluntary repatriation to Burundi.



**Well-being and basic needs – \$4 million:** 55,000 new arrivals would be supported with basic assistance.



**Health – \$11 million:** \$7 million for medicines and medical supplies will support 1.5 million refugees in 2023.

\$4 million will provide health services and maintain 2,600 health staff and some 2,800 VHT workers providing vital access to primary health for 1.5 million refugees, and their host communities.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of **\$181.46 million**, if not more.**



UNHCR works on making WASH services accessible to refugees and host community members in Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda | © UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi



In collaboration with RADF, UNHCR conducted a distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) to displaced individuals, including Abdullah, in Shabat Al Sadat in August 2023 | © UNHCR/RADF

## YEMEN

Yemen's conflict has wrecked the economy and reversed previous development gains, leaving an estimated 21.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. 4.5 million people are internally displaced in the country, and 71,400 people, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, are registered as refugees and asylum-seekers. There have been breakthroughs in the refugee programme, such as the resumption of new refugee registration in the north mid-2023, and the resumption of registration for children of already registered refugees at the end of 2022. Humanitarian access restrictions, bureaucratic impediments, shrinking humanitarian space and underfunding are all hampering UNHCR's capacity to deliver a comprehensive package of services to refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, and IDP returnees.

The one-year anniversary of the truce that was signed in April 2022 and expired in October 2022 has left Yemen in a transitional phase with ongoing talks to renew the ceasefire. With the prospects for peace, there is increasing focus on durable solutions for the internally displaced – voluntary return, local integration and settlement elsewhere – for which UNHCR is playing a leading role.

The protection risks for refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and IDP returnees are acute, exacerbated by insecurity, economic collapse, and the limited availability of basic services. According to the

Protection Cluster's analysis, the protection environment did not improve for displaced persons during the truce. Yemenis have long exhausted their savings and are struggling to find livelihood opportunities and ways to cope with soaring food and fuel prices. The protection space continues to shrink, with violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and access to basic services, particularly affecting vulnerable groups among the displaced and marginalised groups. Women and children, who represent an estimated 74% of the displaced population, often have limited access to services and face specific risks linked to prevailing traditional social norms and customs.

UNHCR is the sole provider of support and services to refugees and asylum-seekers, who have little prospect for inclusion/local integration, amidst increasing pressure from the authorities for return to their country of origin.

UNHCR's cash assistance has proved critical for mitigating socioeconomic vulnerabilities, deterring people from harmful coping mechanisms that trigger protection risks, and generating positive outcomes. Cash assistance accounts for 35% of UNHCR Yemen's protection and assistance to vulnerable populations. But chronic underfunding of the response for refugees, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, continued to leave huge protection and assistance needs unattended.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **4,616,274**

Largest population group: IDP - **4,523,022 / 98%**

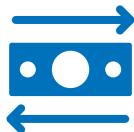


### FUNDING

Gap 69%      Funded 31%

Needs  
\$320 million

## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Cash assistance – \$61 million:** the funding gap facing the multi-purpose cash and emergency cash assistance is at risk of leaving 1,220,000 refugees and IDPs unassisted. Without additional funds, people in need of this life-saving assistance will be unable to cover their basic needs such as food, shelter or WASH, or mitigate protection risks. They may resort to harmful coping mechanisms such as child labour and reduced food consumption to cover for their basic needs.



**Protection – \$21.7 million:** the funding gap for protection is putting at risk 480,445 forcibly displaced people. The life-saving protection services in danger of being cut or reduced include psychosocial support; prevention and response to gender-based violence; social and empowerment activities for women and girls; well-being activities for children; legal counselling and assistance.



**Health – \$3.6 million:** the funding gap for health services is leaving 10,000 refugees at risk. Rampant inflation has led to increased prices of medicines, and diagnostic and hospital fees. Coupled with underfunding and increased requests for assistance, UNHCR has had to prioritize its primary health assistance to life saving cases. UNHCR may have to further reduce its support to persons living with disabilities in terms of provision of assistive devices such as hearing aids, electronic wheelchairs, and artificial limbs.



**Shelter – \$48.4 million:** the funding gap for the shelter programme is at risk of leaving 300,000 people unassisted. The continued shortage of shelter assistance exposes the most vulnerable to Yemen's harsh weather, particularly in the winter and summer. In addition, sub-standard living conditions multiply risks such as the spread of communicable diseases, and expose women and girls in particular to protection risks.



**CCCM – \$2.5 million:** the funding gap for camp coordination and camp management is putting at risk 250,000 people. At the beginning of the year UNHCR had to shift from site management to site monitoring and reduce the number of IDP sites being monitored to 158 (out of a total of 2,431 in Yemen). Without additional funds, the lack of adequate management of IDP hosting sites will undermine the presence and quality of on-site WASH, shelter, and protection services, severely affecting the living conditions of Yemenis already living in extremely dire conditions, in makeshift shelters, and exposed to the harsh climate.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Shelter - \$5.4 million:** will help improve the housing conditions of 33,500 forcibly displaced people.



**Well-being and basic needs - \$5.3 million:** will provide critical assistance to 112,800 of the most vulnerable refugees and internally displaced returnees and voluntary repatriation.



**Health - \$3.6 million:** will support 10,000 of the most vulnerable refugees with primary health care assistance.



**CCCM - \$2.5 million:** will provide increased maintenance, infrastructure, and flood mitigation support to those living in IDP sites monitored by UNHCR.



**Protection - \$4.1 million:** will provide critical lifesaving protection assistance to 277,000 vulnerable forcibly displaced people.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of [\\$176.38 million](#), if not more.**



Abdul-qader is part of the first group of 150 Somali returnees to leave Aden port by boat | © UNHCR/Dotnotion



Amina, a nurse at the Um Sangour refugee camp health centre in Kosti, White Nile State, Sudan, tends to patients at risk of measles, as rising malnutrition aggravates their condition | © UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

## SUDAN EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

Almost four and a half months since the conflict in Sudan broke out, the fighting has displaced more than 3.8 million people from their homes within Sudan and a further 960,000 people have moved to neighbouring countries, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan including over 380,000 Sudanese refugees into Chad, 280,000 Sudanese refugees into Egypt, and almost 220,000 refugee returnees into South Sudan.

The operations in Sudan and neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee and IDP populations prior to the recent crisis. All six country operations continue to be severely underfunded with the new emergency creating significant additional needs, which is affecting their ability to adequately respond to the needs of both existing and newly displaced populations.

UNHCR's revised Supplementary Appeal includes an additional \$231.2 million in requirements for the extension of the planning period to the end of the year with changes in planning figures, and other operational changes.

UNHCR's main budget increases are in Chad and South Sudan, where further investments are needed for new refugee camps and settlements in line with increased population projections, as well as the expansion of infrastructure and services in existing ones, which is also required in Ethiopia. An increase in requirements in South Sudan is due to the fact that the initial response specifically for South Sudanese returnees was originally only for three months, whereas the rest of the RRP was for six months. Thus, the five-month extension to the end of 2023 for this element of the response is a primary factor in the significant increase in financial requirements there.

The modest increases to requirements in Egypt are associated with a scale-up in registration and cash assistance.

In CAR, UNHCR's budget has reduced slightly due to a greater proportion of the new arrivals choosing to remain in border areas, and in conjunction with other response partners taking on a greater role within the RRP.

Inside Sudan, the humanitarian situation remains dire due to shortages of food, water and fuel, limited communications and electricity, and skyrocketing prices of essential items for basic needs. Health care has been critically affected and there is severe shortages of medicines and vital supplies.

UNHCR Sudan has directed significant funding towards life-saving interventions following secondary displacement of refugees from Khartoum, Darfur and Kordofan region. UNHCR needs urgent support if it is to continue to stay and deliver critical assistance - including protection, shelters, household items, clean water and sanitation services, healthcare and education support and site management to refugees, IDPs and host community.

The Sudan operation is also taking a lead role in coordinating IDPs interventions (Protection, Shelter/ NFIs and CCCM cluster leadership), protection monitoring in camps and gathering sites where IDPs are sheltered, establishing help desks, and distributing core relief items and cash assistance.

The rising costs of fuel, transportation, logistics, long clearance process and challenges in transporting relief items to hard-to-reach areas such as the Darfur and Kordofan regions are significantly impeding UNHCR's capacity to deliver essential humanitarian assistance within Sudan but also to remote border locations in the neighbouring countries. UNHCR has established offices in areas with high level of displacements, including in Wadi Halfa, Port Sudan and Wad Madani and has also established a presence in Farchana, Chad, for cross border response to West Darfur and Central Darfur states.

Without adequate funding support, these plans will not be fully implemented and there is a concern that already fragile communities will be further destabilized, with potentially wider and longer-term impacts on regional peace and security.



Razan is a Sudanese IDP and a UNHCR volunteer in Wadi Halfa, sat with her brother Ibrahim | © UNHCR/Mohamed Rached Cherif

## SUDAN

Prior to the outbreak of conflict on 15 April, Sudan hosted one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, primarily from South Sudan but also people fleeing conflict and persecution in the Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and even civil wars in Syria and Yemen. There were also nearly 3.6 million IDPs in Sudan, mostly in the Darfur and Kordofan regions where conflict and climate change impacts like flooding have been endemic.

The conflict in Sudan, ongoing for the fifth month, has had devastating impacts on the humanitarian situation in Sudan. One million people have fled to neighbouring countries; including 240,000 refugees living in Sudan who returned home prematurely, primarily to South Sudan; and 3.8 million people have been internally displaced. In Khartoum, looting, gunfire, and destruction of property, including UNHCR offices, continue. In the Darfur region, long-standing intercommunal tensions have flared up as a result of the crisis, placing IDPs and refugees in increasingly

precarious situations without sufficient water, food and medical supplies; heightened risk of gender-based violence; and threatened physical safety as armed groups clash in close proximity to settlements. Reports that displaced people have already died as a result of shelling and unexploded ordnance and others are facing human rights abuses, including physical and sexual violence, as well as outbreaks of malnutrition and diseases, are devastating and appalling.

Without a durable ceasefire, humanitarian access will continue to be constrained where the fighting is most intense, placing lives at even greater risk and forcing those remaining in Sudan to resort to negative coping mechanisms simply to survive.

Urgent diplomatic and financial support from the international community and ongoing solidarity of host countries to welcome those fleeing the violence are critical to avoid catastrophic outcomes for those caught in this brutal conflict.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

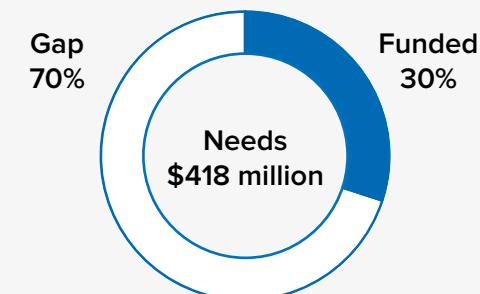
At 31 December 2022: **4,734,436**

Largest population group: IDP - **3,552,717 / 75%**

Current displacement figures as a result of the ongoing conflict - **175,751** refugees and asylum-seekers have been secondarily displaced across Sudan.  
**1,428,551** IDPs<sup>2</sup> displaced by the ongoing conflict.



### FUNDING



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Education:** underfunding is affecting support to the Ministry of Education in integration of refugee education into national systems. In the interim, UNHCR provides support for refugee students to continue their education, at diminished levels due to underfunding.



**Emergency response:** with 3.8 million new IDPs and 187,000 secondary movements of refugees, additional funding is needed urgently to provide emergency assistance and protection to refugees in White Nile State and other areas.



**Livelihoods and self-reliance:** planned livelihood activities and provision of multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable refugees has not been possible in 2023, which are critical gaps given the increasing difficulties in meeting daily needs in Sudan.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Shelter/NFI - \$52 million:** lack of funding will impact UNHCR's protection and assistance to over 140,000 refugees who have moved to White Nile State fleeing conflict in Khartoum, amid overcrowding of existing camps and stretched capacities of service delivery.



**Gender-based violence – \$21.4 million:** women are at heightened risks of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, owing to the indiscriminate and violent nature of conflict in Sudan and the breakdown of rule of law. UNHCR's ability to monitor the protection environment of newly displaced populations in Sudan and provide critical emergency assistance is seriously curtailed.



**WASH - \$28.9 million:** insufficient WASH facilities and services have left displaced populations vulnerable to risks from lack of water, shortage of latrines, and lack of rehabilitation and maintenance of WASH facilities.



**Health and Nutrition – \$15.3 million:** amid high risks of malnutrition and diseases including cholera and malaria, resources are not commensurate with the scale of the need to ensure quality health care and nutrition services for refugees.

### GROWING CONCERN/AREAS TO MONITOR

Within a generalized breakdown in the rule of law, growing concerns are numerous, and include access constraints to people in need, especially in Khartoum and Darfur; the protection of civilians across the country and safety and security for humanitarian staff, materials, and facilities; the breakdown of basic services such as health and shortage of basic commodities as a result of the disruption of supply lines; and increasing reports of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$169.93 million, if not more.**



Qubas Abderahman is a Sudanese electrical engineer who was living and working in Khartoum. She had to flee her home with her cats because her neighbourhood was impacted by the fighting and was not safe anymore. She took a bus to Port Sudan in search of safety | © UNHCR/Mohamed Rached Cherif



Abdallah Abushakin spends time with his wife and children under their shade at the Renk Transit Centre, South Sudan | © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

## SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan's refugee crisis remains the largest in Africa, with 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees having fled the country. There are 2.3 million IDPs in South Sudan, and over 323,000 refugees. Since the start of the Sudan conflict, South Sudan has seen over 250,000 new arrivals, the vast majority of whom are South Sudanese returnees. The conflict in Sudan is worsening South Sudan's already dire humanitarian crisis. Many new arrivals are reaching border areas where the delivery of humanitarian aid is costly and complex due to inaccessibility, poor and non-existent infrastructure, limited connectivity, a lack of power, and supply lines dependent on cross-border trade with Sudan, meaning prices of basic items have skyrocketed as many goods are scarce.

The priority of the emergency response is providing life-saving assistance at transit and reception sites while supporting new arrivals with onward transportation from border areas. Onward transportation is both costly and complicated due to South Sudan's limited infrastructure and roads that are now flooded because of the rainy season. Many new arrivals have been unable to

move away from border areas, causing congestion, increased health risks, while overwhelming existing services. New arrivals who can travel onward into the country to their areas of origin or destinations of choice are likely to go to communities that are already extremely fragile. Providing life-saving assistance to new arrivals from Sudan is putting an additional strain on already limited resources and has the potential to deteriorate services to existing affected communities in South Sudan.

Prior to the conflict in Sudan, South Sudan is still reeling from the devastation of its brutal civil war and is suffering from a deep humanitarian crisis, fuelled by climate change, conflict, and food insecurity. Over three quarters of the population is deemed to be in need of humanitarian aid. South Sudan has now seen four years of historic flooding with water overwhelming homes, farmlands, and the transhumance routes that cattle herders have followed for thousands of years, impacting crop yields and killing livestock, worsening the country's economic and food crises. Many communities in South Sudan are already permanently displaced by climate change.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

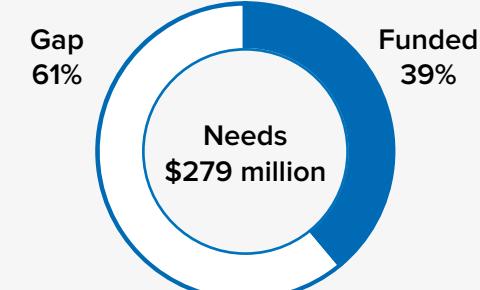
At 31 December 2022: **1,797,021**

Largest population group: IDP - **1,474,679 / 82%**

Current displacement figures as a result of the ongoing conflict - **83,097** newly arrived returnees and **5,346** newly arrived refugees.



### FUNDING



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Education:** underfunding in education is affecting UNHCR's ability to support secondary and tertiary education in many locations, which is negatively impacting primary school enrolment.



**Rainy season preparedness:** South Sudan has been hit by historic rains and flooding in the past four years. Flood protection interventions are now critical to maintain operations during rainy seasons. These include providing emergency shelter kits, building drainage systems, and upgrading infrastructure to withstand flooding.



**Food and nutrition:** with severe WFP food cuts impacting refugee populations, UNHCR has been forced to subsidize food provisions. At current budget levels, the operation will not be able to continue to provide additional food to already vulnerable refugee communities.



**WASH:** the underfunding has left people vulnerable to diseases and risks associated with lack of potable water, shortages of sanitation facilities etc.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Well-being and basic needs - \$28 million:** core relief items (CRIs) for 40,000 households of newly displaced and vulnerable IDPs and refugees will not be provided. In any new displacement, CRIs are among the most vital kinds of assistance to provide.



**Shelter - \$36.7 million:** the operation is unable to meet the huge demand for emergency and transitional shelter. The cost of emergency shelters ranges between \$900 to \$2,500 on average, depending on the location. Emergency shelters are required for 40,000 households.



**WASH - \$28.9 million:** insufficient WASH facilities and services have left displaced populations vulnerable to risks from lack of water, shortage of latrines, and lack of rehabilitation and maintenance of WASH facilities.

### GROWING CONCERN/AREAS TO MONITOR

The Sudan emergency and a large influx of new arrivals is putting additional strain on already limited resources and has the potential to deteriorate conditions for already existing refugee populations in South Sudan. The newly displaced population is also at increased risk of gender-based violence.

The climate crisis is growing, with severe flood waters barely receding during dry seasons, permanently displacing individuals and leaving swathes of land uninhabitable.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$117.29 million, if not more.**



Sudanese refugee Bediria Ali Adam constructs a temporary shelter for her family at Renk Transit Centre in South Sudan | © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



A UN food distribution for newly arrived Sudanese refugees at the Koufroun site, Ouaddai region, Chad | © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

## CHAD

Chad hosts the largest number of people fleeing violence in Sudan including, as of mid-August, 378,428 newly arrived Sudanese refugees mostly from Darfur where, despite intermittent ceasefires, there are still reports of severe fighting. Considering the prevailing situation there, UNHCR anticipates up to 514,500 refugees, 5,000 Chadian refugee returnees, and 80,500 Chadian migrant returnees and third-country nationals could arrive in Chad by the end of 2023.

UNHCR and partners are working hard to relocate refugees away from the border into extensions and new camps which, however, are quickly reaching capacity. Increasing camp capacity and infrastructure remains the utmost priority. New refugees need shelter, clean water, food and core relief items, sanitation facilities, primary health care and protection services such as pre-registration and identification of unaccompanied and separated children. Psychological first aid and psychosocial support are also prioritized.

Refugees are arriving in a region already hosting 407,000 Sudanese refugees in a protracted situation following successive influxes over the past 20 years. With eastern Chad receiving in four months almost as many Sudanese refugees as it

had in the last two decades, there are real risks of host community exhaustion, overwhelming already overstretched public services and exacerbating competition for limited natural resources. The threat to the stabilization of the whole region is real.

UNHCR needs \$166.1 million to provide urgent assistance at the border, support the relocation of refugees to camps, and provide them with essential humanitarian assistance. This includes an added \$70.3 million to respond to the rapidly growing number of arrivals in Chad after the planning figures more than doubled for a second time. Despite the increased needs, UNHCR has received only 34% of the funding needed for the Sudan emergency response in Chad.

With attention on the new arrivals, it is important not to overlook the very significant needs of the 1 million other forcibly displaced people already hosted in Chad before the emergency. Many of these people were already living on the edge and now, following reprioritization for the Sudan emergency, there are even fewer resources for them. UNHCR urgently needs \$50 million to respond to the most critical needs of these forcibly displaced people.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

At 31 December 2022: **1,114,634**

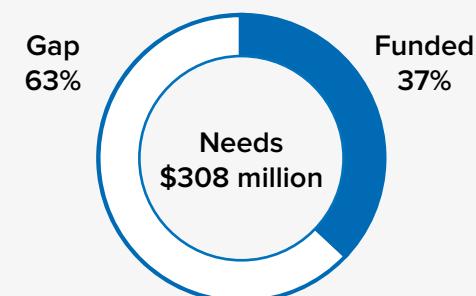
Largest population group: Refugees - **592,769** / **59%**

Current displacement figures as a result of the ongoing conflict as of 31 May 2023:

**1,182,393** overall and **700,553** refugees now **59%**. As of 5 June there are more than **113,000** newly-arrived Sudanese refugees in Chad.



### FUNDING



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Cash assistance:** this had to be deprioritized for urban refugees with specific needs in Ndjamenya to allow for the response to the Sudan emergency.



**Protection:** a biometric verification exercise to update registration data and re-assess protection needs for the existing 407,000 Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad had to be put on hold to respond to the urgent needs of new Sudanese arrivals.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Protection - \$16.1 million:** \$4.7 million is needed to support the relocation of over 33,000 families still at the border having fled Sudan. Relocation is an important protection intervention given the insecurity in the border areas and significant limitations to access affected populations during the impending rainy season.

For other populations in Chad, \$11.4 million is urgently needed to maintain vital protection services including registration, documentation, legal assistance and specialized services to children and survivors of violence including gender-based violence.



**Education - \$8.8 million:** \$3.6 million would ensure newly-arrived Sudanese refugees have access to education, and allow UNHCR to construct, equip or staff temporary classrooms for refugee children. Over half of all new arrivals are school-aged children, and urgent interventions are required to ensure they resume their education and are not left out of school.

\$5.2 million would ensure the continuity of education for over 103,000 refugee children and 17,000 host-community children enrolled in schools supported by UNHCR. This funding is also essential to support more than 150,000 out-of-school refugee children. Without additional funding, 245 schools will not receive support, more than 1,500 teachers and staff may not continue receiving important support. This funding also covers university tuition for 300 refugee youth.



**WASH - \$12.7 million:** would help ensure 514,500 Sudanese refugees have drinking water and sanitation facilities at the border, in transit sites and in camps, helping avoid the spread of disease and ensure refugees' well-being.



**Health - \$11 million:** \$2.8 million is needed for health essential services, including to scale up treatment and prevention for acute malnutrition as the number of cases found among new arrivals continues to rise.

\$8.2 million would ensure the provision of essential health care to the broader refugee population in Chad, including the provision of medicine, medical referral services, and the employment of qualified health staff.



**Shelter and core relief items - \$36.7 million:** \$34.4 million would allow for scaling-up camp capacity, establishing new camps, and assisting up to 514,500 newly-arrived refugee families with shelter and core relief items. As the number of new Sudanese refugee arrivals has already surpassed the expansion capacity in existing camps, new camps are being established to accommodate new refugee arrivals.

\$2.3 million would help meet the most pressing shelter and CRI needs of other populations in Chad, including urgent assistance to families forced into displacement by recent violence in the southern Chad and the Lac Chad region and to replenish stocks that had to be reallocated to the Sudan emergency.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of **\$83.67 million**, if not more.**



Four women, who fled Tindelti in Sudan, wait to be registered as refugees in Koufroun, Ouaddai region in Chad, a few hundred metres over the border | © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse



Kaltouma Khalid, a pregnant woman and mother of eight children, fled the violence in her village of Nyala, Sudan. She found refuge in Am-Dafock, in the Central African Republic | © UNHCR/Stella Fatime

## THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Since 2012, insecurity and political instability have displaced more than 1.4 million people within the CAR and across its borders, representing nearly one third of the country's total population. A further 1.1 million people are at risk for statelessness. Displaced and stateless people face particularly grave protection concerns, including family separations and forced recruitment.

Gender-based violence, which has been increasing in recent years, represents more than one third of all protection incidents reported to UNHCR, making care for survivors – medical and psychosocial support and legal assistance – key priorities in UNHCR's response.

While the 500,000 IDPs within the CAR continue to require significant support, including food, shelter,

healthcare and protection assistance, the conflict in Sudan has now forced almost 4,700 Central African refugees to return home and more than 13,000 refugees from Sudan across the border.

Sudanese refugees are arriving primarily in Am Dafock, an extremely remote area in northeastern CAR, and are staying with host families or settling in spontaneous camps and schools. The extreme remoteness of the area, the lack of communication services and infrastructure, the fragile security situation at the border, and the approaching rainy season require relocation to a safer site further from the border. UNHCR and partners established a new settlement called Korsi just outside the town of Birao, where they are constructing new shelters and other critical infrastructure to ensure safety and protection needs are met for new arrivals.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

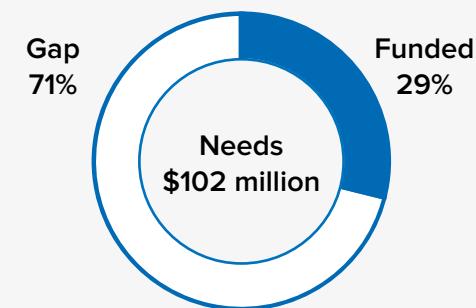
At 31 December 2022: **933,534**

Largest population group: IDP - **515,665 / 55%**

Current displacement figures: **488,861** IDPs as of April 23 2023, **10,368** newly arrived refugees and **3,456** newly arrived returnees.



### FUNDING



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Well-being, livelihoods support, and returns:** core relief items and livelihoods support planned for urban and rural refugees had to be re-directed to provide immediate assistance to the refugees from Sudan. Resources for repatriation activities in western CAR had to be re-directed to support the Sudan emergency.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Protection - \$12.6 million:** \$4.8 million is urgently needed to support important protection activities to respond to the Sudan emergency. This includes \$1.2 million critically needed to provide essential protection support for new refugee arrivals from Sudan, including registration and gender-based violence prevention and response.

\$7.8 million is critically needed for protection activities to support existing IDPs and refugees in the CAR.

\$6.3 million represents the most pressing needs to provide protection services for IDPs in the CAR, in particular protection monitoring and gender-based violence. This figure also includes \$1.1 million to support verification, biometric registration, documentation and child protection for rural refugees.



**WASH - \$1 million:** to provide vital WASH infrastructure for new refugee arrivals from Sudan, including \$1.1 million to install five boreholes to improve access to water for new arrivals, and to construct 250 family latrines and showers to improve sanitation and hygiene.



**Shelter and core relief items - \$2.8 million:** \$1.1 million is urgently needed to provide 2,000 vital shelters for refugee families.

\$1.7 million is needed to provide the most urgently needed core relief items and shelter assistance to the existing population of IDPs and returnees.



**Health and nutrition - \$1.3 million:** \$600,000 would provide critical health care to new refugee arrivals from Sudan, including emergency health care and nutrition needs for the most at-risk Sudanese refugees. Without these healthcare services, about 200 pregnant women are at risk, in addition to people with specific needs, including those who have serious illnesses.

\$700,000 is urgently needed to provide access to health care for refugees in the CAR.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$31.19 million, if not more.**



Mariam Abakar, a mother of 4 children, left her hometown Nyala in Sudan to find refuge in Am Daffock in the Central African Republic with her family members | © UNHCR/Stella Fatime



Abdallah is a retired Sudanese engineer who fled violence in Khartoum and arrived in Egypt in search of safety | © UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

## EGYPT

By the end of August, the crisis in Sudan had displaced more than 280,000 people to Egypt. This influx is intensifying the strain on already scarce resources and public services. Most new arrivals have experienced trauma due to the conflict and violence. Family separation has resulted in a significant number of unaccompanied and separated children, as well as an increased number of female-headed households, all of whom require protection and assistance.

Prior to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, Egypt hosted more than 350,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, approximately half of whom are Syrian nationals, mostly living in urban Cairo and Alexandria. Since 2019, UNHCR has provided technical expertise and support to the Government for establishing a national asylum law – a critical step towards the protection of forcibly displaced people.

Those reaching southern Egypt from Sudan have taken arduous journeys, arriving with few belongings and often exhibiting signs of trauma. UNHCR is working with government authorities, the Egyptian Red Crescent, and coordinates with NGOs, community-based organizations and the UN overall to respond to critical needs. As the conflict in Sudan drags on, support for those fleeing and the communities hosting them will be critical to meet basic needs and identify and address protection risks, particularly for women, children, and older persons who are the majority of arrivals from Sudan.

The depreciation of the Egyptian pound coupled with the increasing inflation rate has significantly impacted the economy, resulting in skyrocketing prices of commodities and services. Challenges to absorbing refugees into communities and national systems have been observed, for example with an exponential increase in rental rates leading to the risk of homelessness and with refugees now having to pay an unprecedented registration fee for universities of \$2,000, as opposed to Egyptian nationals.

Emergency and multi-purpose cash grants are among UNHCR's main interventions. The amount currently distributed to new arrivals will not be enough to meet their entire needs, as the purchase value has reduced. Furthermore, registration of new arrivals will continue to be key to UNHCR's protection response.

Protection mechanisms are established to ensure that people at risk are supported by protection prevention and response activities. Lack of access to services and registration may compel refugees to move onward through perilous journeys towards Europe. In addition to new arrivals from Sudan, many Sudanese who used to live and work in Egypt never registered as refugees but now face issues renewing their residencies. At the same time, they cannot go back to Sudan due to fear of persecution and since they would in this case no longer be allowed to re-enter into Egypt. They thus become sur-place refugees. Many of them therefore decide to register with UNHCR to be able to continue legally staying in Egypt, adding to the overall population in need.



### POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

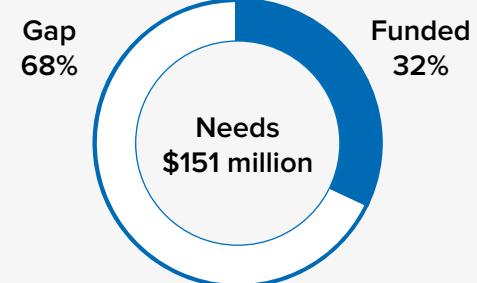
At 31 December 2022: **359,016**

Largest population group: Refugees - **294,638 / 82%**

Current displacement figures - **299,167** refugees and asylum-seekers and **210,000** newly-arrived refugees from Sudan.



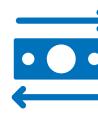
### FUNDING



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Education:** some 22,000 children will not receive their education grants due to the reduction of the budget. In pre-inflation times, 50-60% of overall education costs could be covered by UNHCR's education grants; in 2023, only about 15-25% is being covered. Despite some additional support for additional education needs for refugees arriving from Sudan, some 11,000 families would be affected by the non-provision of education grants if no additional funding is forthcoming. This increases the likelihood of school dropouts as families will no longer be able to pay for the education of their children which will in turn increase negative coping mechanisms.



**Cash assistance:** winter-related cash assistance risks not being paid to some 160,000 people.



**Health:** UNHCR had to make the criteria for health assistance stricter, which renders fewer refugees and asylum-seekers eligible.



**Registration:** shortfalls against the funding needs for registration should be avoided as it is the entry door for refugees' access to protection, durable third-country solutions and service delivery.



**Gender-based violence (GBV):** in July, UNHCR expanded the delivery of GBV safety and recovery packages, including cash assistance, to prioritize newly arrived female GBV survivors from Sudan. UNHCR has since finalized the recommendation of about 200 survivors for this type of assistance. To date, UNHCR has been using resources under its regular programme for this response, with extra funding urgently needed.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

 **Cash assistance - \$14.3 million:** funding here will allow for assistance to some 16,000 vulnerable families with multi-purpose cash, and to provide 115,000 new arrivals from Sudan with emergency cash.

Underfunding means UNHCR will not be able to support some 160,000 people with winter grants, leaving them exposed to harsh winter conditions, and leaving people in precarious housing conditions or at risk of homelessness.

 **Health - \$2.4 million:** UNHCR will not be able to support some 8,000 refugee patients suffering with chronic diseases with their monthly medications, as a result of which their lives may be at risk.

Medical needs as a result of arrivals from Sudan are rising. Underfunding means UNHCR will not be able to provide the Ministry of Health or other partners with the budget needed to support new and increased medical needs.

 **Registration - \$1 million:** additional funds are required for the processing capacity to match the sheer number of those wanting to register with UNHCR. 71,674 individuals have approached UNHCR for international protection since the start of the crisis in mid-April, out of which 44,188 or 62% have been registered so far.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$57.53 million, if not more.**



**Child Protection – \$600,000:** Egypt hosts some 3,500 at-risk minors who receive Best Interest Assessments, case management services and cash assistance. Underfunding here risks cutting them off from assistance, and creating or increasing child protection needs.



**Education - \$1.8 million:** 11,400 families with school age children will no longer receive their education grants which may result in an increased number of out-of-school children and a lack of perspectives for children.

UNHCR will not be able to provide the Ministry of Education with the necessary support to be able to respond to the increased needs related to the increased number of new arrivals fleeing Sudan, in particular children needing schooling.



**Gender-based violence – \$400,000:** without additional support, 400 GBV survivors will not be assisted with critically needed survival and recovery packages, which is a central part of the GBV response. The safety and recovery packages are designed to support GBV survivors and individuals at risk of GBV through provision of the financial assistance as part of a holistic case plan and individual needs assessments.



Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, Abdallah, his wife and five children fled Karthoum to seek safety in Ethiopia | © UNHCR/Lucrezia Vittori

# ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is facing multiple emergencies amid critical levels of underfunding. After two years of civil war, the November 2022 peace agreement in Ethiopia ostensibly brought an end to the conflict in Tigray that displaced hundreds of thousands of people within the country and across the border to Sudan. However, six failed rainy seasons in the Horn of Africa – concrete evidence of the impacts of climate change in the region – have taken a devastating toll as people sell off livestock and flee their homes in search of food and water. Simmering intercommunal tensions in Ethiopia and neighboring Somalia have been exacerbated by the drought: the situation is such there are now 4.4 million internally displaced people nationwide.

Now, the conflict in Sudan has further complicated UNHCR's response, with more than 35,000 Sudanese and non-Sudanese refugees already arriving in Ethiopia in addition to Ethiopian refugee returnees previously residing in Sudan. The worsening security situation in the Sool region

of Somalia has forced more than 91,000 Somali refugees to flee into Somali Region, which is one of the most remote areas in Ethiopia suffering from the drought. Despite these challenges, Ethiopia has for years retained an open door for those displaced within the region, currently hosting more than 933,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. Retaining support for these populations, those internally displaced by conflict and drought, and the communities that host them amidst compounding crises is more essential than ever.

By the end of 2023, the number of refugees is expected to increase to 1,046,000 due to natural population growth as well as new arrivals. Despite the limited resources and many challenges, the Government of Ethiopia maintains an open-door policy for refugees and asylum-seekers and maintains its commitments to the pledges made at the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019.



## POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

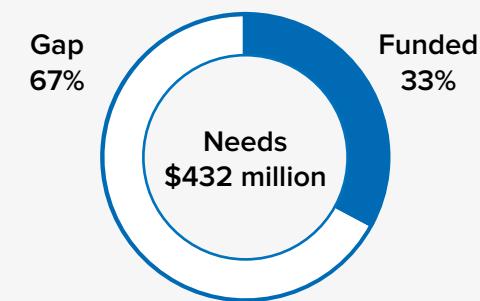
At 31 December 2022: **5,523,636**

Largest population group: IDP - **2,730,000 / 49%**

Current displacement figures - **6,429** newly arrived refugees and **54** newly arrived returnees from Sudan.



## FUNDING



## AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



**Education:** education-related activities have been reduced by 51% compared to 2022.



**Health:** the provision of health services has reduced by 53% compared to 2022.



**Shelter:** shelter-related services have been cut by 50% compared to 2022.

## AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



**Shelter - \$37.6 million:** emergency shelters are needed for 100,000 IDPs displaced by drought, conflict and/or flood in 7 regions as well as 170,000 newly arriving refugees in Somalia, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray and Gambella regions. Transitional shelters are required in 23 locations for refugees, as well as vulnerable returning and relocated IDPs in 9 regions.



**Health - \$17.3 million:** one out of two refugee children between 6-59 months in Ethiopia is undernourished (wasted, stunted, underweight and micronutrient deficient). Provision of nutrition treatment and preventive services at 41 nutrition centres will save lives of 225,840 of the most vulnerable among the refugee population (188,200 children under five and 37,640 pregnant and lactating women) and treat over 72,000 children under five years with acute malnutrition.

\$5.6 million is urgently required for close to 1 million refugees to access essential primary health care and secondary health care services. Without funding, essential medicines and medical services and remuneration for health care workers will not be provided for the close to 1 million refugees and host community from June to December 2023 as the available funding will only cater for less than 1,000 medical referrals.



**Education - \$3 million:** support for national teachers' salaries from June to December 2023 (\$2 million). Refugee Incentive Workers from April to December 2023 (\$540,000). Learning and teaching materials (\$428,200). More than 114,000 refugee children in primary education will be out of school from April to December 2023. 15,202 refugee students in secondary education will not be able to continue their education in 2023. 1,700 refugee students enrolled in universities will not be able to continue their education in 2023.



**Protection related core relief items - \$23.8 million:** core relief items for protection to 150,000 households of newly displaced and vulnerable IDPs and refugees risk not being provided. The items are used as a protection tool in displacement settings for the most vulnerable.



**Gender-based violence - \$14.2 million:** key areas of intervention to support over 150,000 refugees and 140,000 IDPs will be impacted, including activities specifically aimed at mitigating the risks of gender-based violence.

### GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

The Sudan emergency and a large influx of new arrivals is putting additional strain on already limited resources and has the potential to deteriorate conditions for already existing refugee populations in South Sudan. The newly displaced population is also at increased risk of gender-based violence.

The climate crisis is growing, with severe flood waters barely receding during dry seasons, permanently displacing individuals and leaving swathes of land uninhabitable.

**Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$83.67 million, if not more.**



Qasem, a Sudanese student had to flee university when conflict broke out in Karthoum. Now, he hopes to start a new life in Ethiopia or elsewhere, where he can finish his studies | © UNHCR/Lucrezia Vittori

# **A CONTINUED THREAT TO LIVES, DIGNITY AND HOPE**

## **THE IMPLICATIONS OF UNDERFUNDING UNHCR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023**

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **For more information**

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Visit [Global Focus](#), UNHCR's main operational reporting portal for donors and other key partners. The site provides an overview of the protection risks that refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR face across the world, as well as regularly updated information about programmes, operations, financial requirements, funding levels and donor contributions.

